

Serial No. 10/824,214
28 December 2004 Reply to
24 August 2004 Office Action

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-11 and 13 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), and claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claim 4 stands objected to, but has been indicated as being allowable. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to include the limitation of claim 4 pursuant to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, and claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. 102(b); Shapiro; Claims 1-3, 7:

Applicants respectfully do not acquiesce to this basis for this rejection; however, in order to advance prosecution and allowance of the present application, the limitation of claim 4 has been added to claim 1 pursuant to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. 102(b); Winkelman; Claims 1-3, 7-9:

Applicants respectfully do not acquiesce to this basis for this rejection; however, in order to advance prosecution and allowance of the present application, the limitation of claim 4 has been added to claim 1 pursuant to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. 103(a); Shapiro/Abreu; Claims 5, 9, and 13:

Applicants respectfully do not acquiesce to this basis for this rejection; however, in order to advance prosecution and allowance of the present application, the limitation of claim 4 has been added to claim 1 pursuant to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

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35 U.S.C. 103(a); Shapiro; Claim 8:

Applicants respectfully do not acquiesce to this basis for this rejection; however, in order to advance prosecution and allowance of the present application, the limitation of claim 4 has been added to claim 1 pursuant to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. 103(a); Shapiro/Abreu/Wilke; Claims 6 and 10-11:

Applicants respectfully do not acquiesce to this basis for this rejection; however, in order to advance prosecution and allowance of the present application, the limitation of claim 4 has been added to claim 1 pursuant to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Pursuant to this objection, the limitation of claim 4 has been added to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

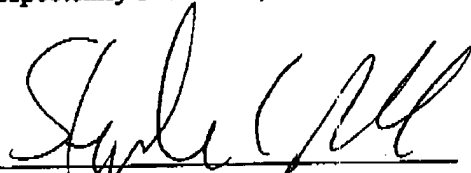
On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application is believed to be warranted and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned if he has any questions or issues with respect to the above amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

12/28/04

By: _____



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